

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02191 121223Z

ACTION IO-14

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SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-05 ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0653

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: UNGA MULTILATERAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 205678

1. SUMMARY: EXTAFF MINISTER ARCHIE MOGWE, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY PERMSEC MOGAMI, RECEIVED IRO/NAPPER AND ME ON SEPTEMBER 8 FOR REVIEW OF UNGA ISSUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, BOTH ARE OLD HANDS IN UN MATTERS; MOGWE HAS REPRESENTED GOB ON REGULAR BASIS AT RECENT UNGA SESSIONS AS WELL AS AT UNSC MEETING LAST JANUARY. SINCE THEN, HE HAS ATTENDED PREPARATORY MEETING FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND NAC NEW DELHI, ECON/TRADE MEETINGS IN FIJI AND CAMEROON, MEETINGS OF FRONTLINE STATES AND ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN LAGOS. MOGAMI WAS BOTSWANA'S UN PERMREP FOR MORE THAN FOUR YEARS. SINCE BOTH ARE ARTICULATE, INDUSTRIOUS AND INFORMED, WE WERE ABLE TO COVER MANY MAJOR ISSUES IN THE COURSE OF OUR NEARLY ONE-HOUR MEETING. WE RAN THROUGH TALKING POINTS ON POLITICAL ISSUES (PARA 9, REFTEL) INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS. RACISM, NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, GUAM AND PUERTO RICO. THEY RAISED KOREA ON WHICH WE THEN CONVEYED "IF ASKED" TALKING POINTS. MENTION OF NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATIES LED THEM TO RAISE SUBJECT OF CUBA WHICH IN TURN ENABLED US TO
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GABORO 02191 121223Z

INQUIRE ABOUT PROSPECTS OF GOB ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA (SEPTTEL). FOLLOWING IS BRIEF REPORT OF REACTIONS ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS. WE TOUCHED ON THESE ISSUES ONLY BRIEFLY STATING THAT US HAS HOPES FOR PROGRESS TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS IN BOTH AREAS. MOGWE EXPRESSED

APPROVAL OF STATEMENT THAT WE WISH TO SEE UNGA CONSIDER THESE PERENNIAL ISSUES IN MODERATE AND BALANCED SPIRIT WHICH WILL NOT DAMAGE EXISTING NEGOTIATING FRAME WORKS.

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA. SINCE OUR DIALOGUE WITH BOTSWANA ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IS CONDUCTED ON ALMOST DAILY BASIS, GOB HAS ALREADY BEEN FULLY APPRISED OF, AND PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR, US/UK INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA. MOGWE TOLD US HE HOPES ANOTHER MEETING OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS WILL BE CALLED SOON TO COORDINATE THEIR RESPONSE TO EXPECTED USK PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF UN REPRESENTATIVE FOR ZIMBABWE. GOB HAS GIVEN SOME CONSIDERATION TO CALLING SUCH A MEETING, BUT HAD DECIDED TO DEFER TO PRESIDENT NYERERE AS CHAIRMAN OF FRONTLINE STATES. WE BELIEVE GOB WILL SUPPORT US/UK INITIATIVE IN UN AND USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH OTHER FRONTLINE STATES ON BEHALF OF PROPOSAL. MOGWE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH OUR POSITIONS ON APARTHEID AND NAMIBIA WHICH ARE ALSO WELL KNOWN TO GOB.

4. PUERTO RICO AND GUAM. MOGWE INQUIRED WHETHER NUMBER OF PUERTO RICAN SUPPORTERS OF INDEPENDENCE HAD NOT INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS. DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED PARA 12E, WE REPLIED PERCENTAGE VOTING FOR PRO-INDEPENDENCE PARTIES IN RECENT ELECTIONS HAD REMAINED ABOUT SAME. MOGWE ASKED WHETHER US/CUBAN EXCHANGE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 02191 121223Z

INTERESTS SECTIONS AND SIGNING OF NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATIES HAD NOT REMOVED SOME OF POLITICAL PRESSURE FOR ANTI-US RESOLUTIONS ON PUERTO RICO. WE REPLIED THAT WE HOPE THIS WOULD BE THE CASE BUT EXPECTED SUCH RESOLUTIONS WOULD BE PROPOSED ANYWAY; WE WOULD APPRECIATE BOTSWANA'S SUPPORT. DISCUSSION THEN DIGRESSED BRIEFLY AS WE INQUIRED WHETHER GOB IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA (SUBSTANCE BY SEPTTEL). WITH REGARD TO GUAM, MOGWE ASKED WHETHER INHABITANTS DESIRED CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US BASES; WE ASSURED HIM THAT, BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO ISLAND'S ECONOMY, BASES WERE DESIRED BY ALMOST ALL GUAMANIAN. MOGAMI SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT THESE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO GOB ONLY WHEN IT IS TIME TO CAST ITS VOTE. WE BELIEVE BOTSWANA'S 32ND UNGA POSITION ON THESE ISSUES HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED.

5. MOGWE RAISED KOREA BY STATING: "WE DISAGREE ON THIS POINT". WE RESPONDED THAT US HOPES KOREAN ISSUE WILL NOT BE RAISED IN 32ND UNGA; MOGWE NOTED WITH SOME RELIEF THAT GOB HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO PRE-UNGA LOBBYING CAMPAIGN BY NORTH AND SOUTH KOREANS THIS YEAR, NOT A

SINGLE DELEGATION FROM EITHER COUNTRY CAME TO BOTSWANA.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS. OUR INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT THAT BOTSWANA HAS ADMIRABLE RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD BROUGHT SATISFIED RESPONSE FROM MOGWE, WHO TOLD US THAT "ITS ALWAYS GOOD TO HEAR THIS FROM OTHERS". MOGWE AND MOGAMI SEEMED TO KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT PROPOSAL FOR UN HICOM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; MOGWE WONDERED WHETHER IT WAS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH POSITION IN VIEW OF EXISTING UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES (HE CITED COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID AS EXAMPLE). MOGAMI RESPONDED THAT DESIGNATION OF HICOM MIGHT BE USEFUL AND IN ANY CASE WOULD BE PUSHED BY WEST AS AN ISSUE FAVORABLE TO IT BUT NEVER OF MUCH INTEREST TO "THIRD WORLD". WITH REGARD TO DECADE AGAINST RACISM, MOGWE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 GABORO 02191 121223Z

REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT ZIONISM/RACISM LINKAGE BE BROKEN AND ASKED WHEN HE MIGHT GET AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION AS TO WHY ZIONISM SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A FORM OF RACISM. HE WONDERED ALOUD IF BLACKS HAD EVER BEEN ACCEPTED AS JEWS IN ISREAL. WE RESPONDED THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, US COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN DECADE ACTIVITIES UNTIL LINKAGE IS BROKEN.

7. ECONOMIC ISSUES (NORTH-SOUTH DIALOUGE). DURING SHORT, VERY GENERAL DISCUSSON, MOGWE STATED THAT THIRD WORLD STATES, INCLUDING BOTSWANA, WERE NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH OUTCOME OF CIEC. WE RESPONDED THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE ALSO NOT COMPLETELY SATISFED, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE MEANINGFUL ENERGY DIALOGUE WAS NOT CONTINUED. NEVERTHELESS, WE SEE CIEC FRAMEWORK AS BEST AVAILABLE MEANS FOR DISCUSSION OF NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES AND HOPE THAT BOTH RENEWAL OF 31ST UNGA AND 32ND UNGA WILL AVOID TRYING TO MAKE DECISIONS ON OUTSTANDING CIEC ISSUES. MOGWE AND MOGAMI DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH THESE POINTS, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEIR SILENCE SIGNIFIES GOB AGREEMENT WITH US POSITION ON NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES.

8. WE DID NOT RAISE DISARMAMENT AND UN MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ISSUES DURING CONSULTATION WHICH HAD ALREADY TAKEN NEARLY AN HOUR ON WHAT MOGWE SAID HAD BEEN A HECTIC DAY. IF NO MEETING IS CALLED OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS, MOGWE SAID HE EXPECTS TO LEAVE FOR NEW YORK AND UNGA IN NEXT FEW DAYS (WE WILL COMMUNICATE TRAVEL PLANS WHEN KNOWN). EMBOFF NAPPER, DCM OR I WILL FOLLOW UP ON OTHER ISSUES WITH MOGAMI AS REQUIRED.
NORLAND

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